

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

*Please replace the title with the following amended title:*

LIQUID CRYSTAL COMPOSITION, POLYMERIZATION PRODUCT, RETARDATION  
~~RATARDATION~~ PLATE AND ELLIPSOIDALLY POLARIZING PLATE

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 9, with the following amended paragraph:*

In the case of using the liquid crystal compound to be used in the invention for a retardation plate, those ~~comounds~~ compounds are preferred which have the above-mentioned properties and, at the same time, show good mono-domain properties for obtaining uniform, defect-free alignment. In case where the mono-domain properties are poor, there results a poly-domain structure which produces an alignment defect at the boundary between domains to cause scattering of light. This can lead to reduction in transmission of the retardation plate, thus not being desirable.

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:*

[Refractive index-controlling agent]

In the invention, the refractive index-controlling agent means a compound which, when added to a biaxial liquid crystal composition, can change the refractive indexes of the composition along the directions of three axes. That is, refractive indexes of a biaxial liquid crystal composition (containing the refractive index-controlling agent) along the directions of three axes ( $n_x$ ,  $n_y$  and  $n_z$  in the order of magnitude) obtained by adding the refractive index-

controlling agent to the biaxial liquid crystal composition can be changed in comparison with the refractive indexes of the composition along the directions of three axes ( $n_{x0}$ ,  $n_{y0}$  and  $n_{z0}$  in the order of magnitude) before addition of the ~~refractive~~ refractive index-controlling agent. Specifically, it is possible to make different the value of  $(n_x - n_y)/(n_y - n_z)$  and the value of  $(n_{x0} - n_{y0})/(n_{y0} - n_{z0})$ .

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 20, with the following amended paragraph:*

L-14: -CO-O-divalent chain group-O-CO-divalent cyclic

~~group-divalent~~ group-divalent chain group-CO-O-